

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 09977 151150Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03
PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 ACDA-07
OMB-01 TRSE-00 EUR-12 /078 W
-----151153Z 075919 /53

R 151121Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6178
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

S E C R E T CAIRO 9977

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, ET, EG, US
SUBJECT: FAHMY AGAIN URGES U.S. ARMS FOR SOMALIA

1. WHEN RELATING BREZHNEV'S STATEMENT OF STRONG SOVIET
SUPPORT FOR MENGISTU (SEPTEL), FAHMY AGAIN MADE PITCH FOR
U.S. ARMS FOR SOMALIA. SOVIETS, YUGOSLAVS, AND LIBYANS
ARE ALL HELPING MENGISTU. SOME ISRAELIS ALSO STILL IN
ETHIOPIA. ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND ETHIOPIAN MILITIA MEN HAVE
BEEN TRAINED AND, ACCORDING GOE INFORMATION, WILL SHORTLY
BE USED TO "MASSACRE" ALL DISSIDENT ELEMENTS.

2. GOE, FAHMY NOTED, IS PROVIDING ERITREANS AND SOMALIS
WITH SMALL ARMS TO MEET THE THREAT. AS RESULT USG EFFORTS,
SAUDIS HAVE ALSO "MOVED A LITTLE BIT" BY PROVIDING SIAD
BARRE WITH \$15 MILLION. BUT THIS IS NOT ENOUGH TO MEET
THE ETHIOPIAN THREAT. UNLESS THE MENGISTU REGIME CAN BE
BROUGHT DOWN IN NEXT FEW MONTHS, IT WILL BE A SERIOUS
THREAT TO SUDAN, SOMALIA, AND OTHER FRIENDLY STATES.

3. I REMINDED FAHMY THAT WE HAVE OFFERED ECONOMIC
HELP TO SOMALIA AND ARE CONSIDERING PARTICIPATING IN
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A CONSORTIUM THROUGH WHICH SOME KIND OF ARMS MIGHT
BE OBTAINED. FAHMY REPLIED THAT THIS IS HELPFUL,
BUT NOT ENOUGH. USG SHOULD PROVIDE ARMS DIRECTLY.

4. SUDANESE, HE WENT ON, HAD TOLD HIM AMBASSADOR
YOUNG RECENTLY SUGGESTED IN KHARTOUM THAT THERE BE
A "DIVISION OF INFLUENCE" IN EASTERN AFRICA: SOVIETS

MIGHT BE PRINCIPAL INFLUENCE IN EHTIOPIA AND SOMALIA AND U.S. IN SUDAN AND EGYPT. HE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER THIS REFLECTS USG POLICY, BUT WISHED US TO KNOW THAT ANY SUCH CONCEPT SMACKS OF "SPHERES OF INFLUENCE" AND IS TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE TO EGYPT. AS WE SHOULD KNOW, SOMALIS ARE CHAFING UNDER PRE-EMINENT SOVIET INFLUENCE AND WANT TO GET OUT FROM UNDER IT. WHATEVER DOUBTS GOE MAY HAVE ABOUT SIAD BARRE, EGYPT INTENDS TO HELP HIM TO DO SO. USG SHOULD ALSO RECOGNIZE SIAD BARRE'S DILEMMA AND BE MORE RESPONSIVE. SOMALIA NEEDS ARMS. AS HE UNDERSTOOD OUR NEW ARMS POLICY, SUCH ASSISTANCE SHOULD NOT BE PRECLUDED SINCE IT IS AS MUCH IN USG INTEREST AS IN ANYONE ELSE'S TO ENCOURAGE SOMALIS GET RID OF SOVIET NAVAL BASES.

5. I TOLD HIM THAT WE ARE FULLY AWARE OF SOMALI DESIRES. AS HE KNEW, WE ARE CONSIDERING WHAT WE CAN DO TO HELP AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO. I WOULD CONVEY HIS APPEAL, BUT COULD NOT OFFER MUCH ENCOURAGEMENT ON ARMS ISSUE.

6. COMMENT: FAHMY WAS CLEARLY WORRIED ABOUT SOVIET DETERMINATION SUPPORT MENGISTU AS APPARENTLY STATED UNEQUIVOCALLY BE BREZHNEV. EGYPTIANS WANT MENGISTU REGIME TO COLLAPSE, AND SOO, THROUGH INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL PRESSURES. IN THIS CONTEXT, WHILE NOT STATING SO PUBLICLY, THEY ARE PRIVATELY TALKING ABOUT RETURN OF ETHNIC SOMALI SPEAKING OGADEN
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AREA TO SOMALIA AS ONE MEANS OF WEAKENING MENGISTU.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LOBBYING, ARMS, MILITARY SALES, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977CAIRO09977
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770213-0689
Format: TEL
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770656/aaaabwnj.tel
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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